

Message Text

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12
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 FEA-01

ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

NRC-05 DODE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 FPC-01

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EC BRUSSELS FOR ERDA; STATE PASS ERDA

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG EINV NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN FRENCH SUPER PHENIX FAST
BREEDER REACTOR

REF: THE HAGUE 5149

1. SECOND CHAMBER LAST WEEK APPROVED ECONOMICS MINISTER
LUBBERS' PROPOSALS FOR DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN FRENCH SUPER
PHENIX FAST BREEDER REACTOR PROJECT. GREEN LIGHT FOR
2.5 PERCENT PARTICIPATION BY THE NETHERLANDS JOINT ELEC-
TRICITY COMPANIES (SEP) WAS CONDITIONED ON NETHERLANDS
OBTAINING RIGHT OF CO-DETERMINATION IN THE REACTOR'S SAFETY
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REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING GUARANTEE AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF

NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND KNOW-HOW. THE CHAMBER ACCEPT A MOTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT INFORM PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS BEFORE IT TAKES A FINAL DECISION.

2. A DECISION WAS ALSO TAKEN LAST WEEK BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS OF SEP APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPER PHENIX PROJECT ON CONDITION THAT THE SEP CONTRIBUTION NOT EXCEED 23.6 MILLION GERMAN MARKS, CONSTRUCTION OF SUPER PHENIX BE SUBJECT TO EUROPEAN SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND THE FISSIONABLE MATERIAL USED OR PRODUCED BY THE REACTOR BE SUPERVISED BY EURATOM AND IAEA. IF THE SEP PROPOSALS ARE APPROVED BY THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY, THE NEXT STEPS WILL BE A MEETING OCTOBER 6 BY THE BOARD OF THE SCHNELL BRUTER KERNKRAFTWERKGESELLSCHAFT (SBK) IN WHICH SEP HAS A 15 PERCENT SHARE AND AN OCTOBER 15 BOARD MEETING OF THE CENTRALE NUCLEAIRE EUROPEENNE A NEUTRONS RAPIDES SA (NERDA) IN WHICH SBK HAS A 16 PERCENT SHARE.

3. COMMENT: LUBBERS, IN RESPONDING TO A DIRECT QUERY DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON SEPTEMBER 23, SAID THE CABINET HAD AGREED ONLY RELUCTANTLY TO SUBMIT LUBBERS' PROPOSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN SUPER PHENIX TO PARLIAMENT. HE SAID THAT HESITANT COLLEAGUES OF HIS HAD FOUND COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT THE DUTCH PARTICIPATION WOULD BE ONLY 2.5 PERCENT AND THUS "DOWN FROM" THE 15 PERCENT DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN THE KALKAR PROJECT WITH BELGIUM AND THE SOCIALIST LABOR DEFEAT IN SWEDEN HAD MADE AN IMPRESSION ON PM DEN UYL "WHO WOULD NOW LOOK VERY CAREFULLY AT EVERYTHING PERTAINING TO ATOMIC ENERGY IN THE NETHERLANDS." ILLUMINATING THIS LATTER REMARK, LUBBERS ADDED THAT WHILE HE PERSONALLY INTERPRETED THE SWEDISH ELECTION AS A SHIFT TO THE RIGHT AND NOT AN ANTI-NUCLEAR REACTION, DUTCH SOCIALISTS WERE LOOKING FOR A RATIONALE MORE FAVORABLE FOR THEIR INTERESTS.

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